

To the Honourable Visitours appointed by both  
Houses of Parliament for the regulating and reforming  
of the Vniversity of Oxford.

The Petition of your Freinds and Servants in the said Vniversity.

Humbly Sheweth,

**T**hat divers learned and civill men have been much importuned,  
and some of them seduced (under pretence of maintaining the  
old Prelacy and Liturgy) to enter into a kinde of Confederacy  
with Doctor Fell, and his Delegates, to oppose all Reformers, both the  
Parliament, and Visitours, and hinder a just and necessary Reforma-  
tion. We doe not deny that some of us are exercised with doubts, but  
we desire to communicate our speciall scruples to you in an humble and  
private way; We will not conspire together to excuse the errours, and  
outrages of other men, who are as yet (to the great dishonour and pre-  
judice of our Common-Mother the Vniversity) of the same body with us.  
We consider that to oppose you our much honour'd Visitours, is to re-  
bell against the Houses: to maintaine Prelacy is to uphold Tyranny:  
and to contend for the Common-Prayer-Booke is to contend for a false  
Translation of the Canonickall Scriptures, to magnifie those bookes that  
are not Canonickall, and justifie the Court of Rome, not onely in admit-  
ting dangerous Ceremonies to corrupt the purity, but in submitting to  
the Roman Order, which would overthrow the piety of our Common  
and publique service.

We are bold therefore to remonstrate that whatever is propounded  
and delivered by the pretended Delegates aforesaid, as the sence of  
the whole Vniversity contrary to this Petition, is contrary both to our  
sence and consciences; And our humble request is, that you judge not  
of this Vniversity by the rage and confederacy of some Malignants in  
it, who would endanger the whole body to save themselves, and have  
therefore conspired to set up this Delegacy to seduce and corrupt the un-  
settled, to oppose the Visitation, and hinder the Reformation of this  
place. Be pleased to command every man to plead his owne cause, and  
speake for himselfe, onely punish the Heads and Ringleaders of this  
Rebellious conspiracy, and pardon all seduced Schollers, who upon bet-  
ter information, and more mature deliberation, shew that they have er-  
red out of meere simplicity, and doe not hate to be reformed.

Iune 2. 1647.

And we shall pray, &c.



24  
Die Veneris. 18. FEB. 1647.

**T**He Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled do appoint and establish Joshua Crosse Master of Arts, and fellow of Lincolne Colledge in Oxford to be senior Proctor, and Ralph Button Master of Arts and fellow of Merton Colledge junior Proctor of the Universitie of Oxford, with full power and authority to exercise and execute the said places and offices of Proctors according to the Lawes of the Land, the Customes and Statutes rightly established of the said Universitie; And to continue in the said places untill the usuall time of Resignation and Election, which shall be in the yeare 1649. And then the usuall course shall be held for the choice of Proctors as in former times.

Jo Browne  
Cler. Parliamentorum.

H. Elsyng Cler.  
Parl. D. Com.

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At the Committee for the Vniversitie  
OXFORD July 2. 1646.

**O**Rdered that no Masters or Heads of any Colledges or Halls, or Schollers, or other persons be admitted into any Mastership, Governourship, Fellowship, Schollership, or Office or place of preferment or advantage in the Universitie of Oxford; And that no Leases of any Lands belonging to the said Universitie, or any the Colledges or Halls therein be made or renewed, untill the pleasure of the Parliament be made knowne therein.

F. Rous.

Concordat cum Registris Vniversitatis OXON.

Ita testor Iohannes French Notarius Publicus  
& Registrarius Vniversitatis Oxon.

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continued

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Die Jovis 26. Augusti 1647.

An additionall Ordinance of the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament  
for the Visitation and Reformation of the University of Oxford,  
and the severall Colledges and Halls therein.



For the more effectuell and speedy reformation and regulation of the University of Oxford, and the severall Colledges and Halls therein according to a former ordinance of the first of May last, and for the explanation of the same, the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament do declare, that the Cathedrall Church and Colledge of Christ-Church in Oxford, with the Deane, Prebendaries, Students, Schollers, and Officers, therunto belonging, are within the words and intencion of the said Ordinance to all intents and purposes: and it is further ordained, that the Visitours thereto appointed, or any five or more of them shall have full power and authority to tender and administer the solemne League and Covenant, and negative Oath, to all and every the Governours, Professours, Graduates, Masters, Fellowes, Schollers, Students, & Officers of the said University, and of the respective Halls and Colledges therein, and to send for, examine and peruse all and every their Bookes and Statutes, Registers, Journals, Bookes of Entries, Accounts, Orders, Writings, which concerne the government or affaires of the said University, or respective Colledges and Halls, and to send for in custody and commit to prison all such persons, who after the personall summons shall contemptuously refuse to produce and deliver the same, or any of them to the said Visitours, or not shew sufficient cause of their not producing them, or any of them respectively, untill they shall be accordingly produced, and delivered, and likewise all such Masters, Professours, Fellowes, Schollers, Students, and Officers of the said University, Colledges, Halls, or any of them respectively, who during the said Visitation shall after a second personall summons wilfully neglect or refuse to appeare before them, and also to impannell such and so many Members & Officers of the said University, Colledges, Halls, and other persons within the limits and precincts of the said University being of the age of 21 yeares or upward as they shall thinke fit to enquire of, and present upon their corporall Oathes all offenders and offences comprized within the said Ordinance upon such articles of enquiry grounded on the said ordinance, as shall be approved of by the standing Committee of Lords and Commons mentioned in the said Ordinance, and likewise to examine witnesses upon oath for proove of an offence or misdemeanour inquirable or punishable by the said Ordinances: and Oliver St. John His Majesties Solicitour generall is hereby required and authorized to draw up and prepare a Commission, and direct the same unto the said Visitours for visiting the said University, Colledges, and Halls, and every of them respectively, and the respective Governours, Masters, Professours, Schollers, Students, Officers and Members in as large and ample manner as in the said Ordinance, and this present Ordinance is prescribed without any further warrant, and that the Commissioners of the great Seale of England, shall have authority hereby to passe the said Commission under the great Seale accordingly, and the said Visitours and every of them shall be protected and saved harmlesse by authority of this present Parliament against all persons for whatsoever they shall act or execute in pursuance of the said Ordinances, and the said Visitours or any five or more of them shall have power to appoint a Register, and such other Officers as are necessary to be employed in the said Visitation, who shall receive such recompence and Salary for their paines therein, and out of such money as the standing Committee of Lords and Commons shall thinke meet, and all Sheriffes, Mayors, and other Officers, are hereby required to be aiding and assisting to the said Visitours, or any five or more of them, and to their Officers in the execution of this and the former Ordinance.

Jo. Browne Cler. Parliamentorum.

FEB. 18. 1647.

**W** Hereas Philip Earle of Pembroke and Montgomery, Chancellour of the Universitie of Oxford, hath recommended Edward Reynolds Master of Arts, to be Vice-Chancellour of the said University. The Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament doe appoint and establish the said Master Reynolds to be Vice-Chancellour of the same University, with full power and authority to exercise and execute the said place and Office of Vice-Chancellour according to the Lawes of the Land, the Customes and Statutes rightly established of the said University, and to continue in the said place untill August, 1649. And then the usuall Course shall be held for the Choice of Vice-Chancellours as in former times.

Io. Brown. Cler. Parl.

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MARCH 31. 1648.

**W** Hereas the Parliament have sent downe Commissioners for the regulating of the Universitie of Oxford; and whereas divers ill affected persons doe from time to time oppose the putting in execution of the Ordinances of Parliament there, you are on sight hereof, and hereafter as occasion shall serve, to send such parties or Companies of your Regiment to Oxford as you shall find necessary upon the desire of the Commissioners for the assisting of them in the setting of the said Universitie according to Ordinance of Parliament. And for so doing this shall be your Warrant. Given under my hand in Queenstreet London the 31 of March, 1648.

To Lieut: Coll:  
Kelsay these.

T. FAIRFAX.